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Oceans and the law of the sea: oceans and the law of the sea

Report on the work of the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole on the Regular Process for Global Reporting and Assessment of the State of the Marine Environment, including Socioeconomic Aspects

Letter dated 25 August 2016 from the Co-Chairs of the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole addressed to the President of the General Assembly

We have the honour to transmit to you the attached report on the work of the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole on the Regular Process for Global Reporting and Assessment of the State of the Marine Environment, including Socioeconomic Aspects, which met at United Nations Headquarters from 3 to 9 August 2016, pursuant to paragraph 283 of General Assembly resolution 70/235. Section II of the report sets out the agreed recommendations, which are being submitted before the end of the seventieth session of the General Assembly, pursuant to the same paragraph of resolution 70/235.

We kindly request that the present letter and the report be circulated as a document of the General Assembly under the agenda item entitled "Oceans and the law of the sea".

(*Signed*) Juliette **Babb-Riley**

(*Signed*) Carolyn **Schwalger**

* A/71/150.

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Report of the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole on the Regular Process for Global Reporting and Assessment of the State of the Marine Environment, including Socioeconomic Aspects

I. Report of the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole

1. The seventh meeting of the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole on the Regular Process for Global Reporting and Assessment of the State of the Marine Environment, including Socioeconomic Aspects was convened pursuant to paragraph 283 of General Assembly resolution 70/235. The meeting was held at United Nations Headquarters in New York from 3 to 9 August 2016.

2. The Co-Chairs of the Working Group, Juliette Babb-Riley (Barbados) and Carolyn Schwalger (New Zealand), opened the meeting. The Assistant Secretary-General for Legal Affairs delivered opening remarks on behalf of the Secretary-General.

3. Representatives of 63 Member States,[1] 1 non-member State,[2] 9 intergovernmental organizations and other entities[3] and 1 non-governmental organization[4] attended the meeting.

4. Enrique Marschoff (Argentina), Anastasia Strati (Greece), Sanae Chiba (Japan), Hilconida P. Calumpong (Philippines), Chul Park (Republic of Korea), Osman Keh Kamara (Sierra Leone), Joshua Tuhumwire (Uganda) and Alan Simcock (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland) participated in the meeting in their capacity as members of the Group of Experts of the Regular Process, established pursuant to paragraph 287 of resolution 70/235.

5. The following supporting documentation was available to the meeting: a provisional agenda, an annotated provisional agenda, a format, a proposed organization of work, and the Secretary-General's note on preliminary resource requirements (2017-2020), prepared pursuant to paragraph 285 of resolution 70/235.

6. The Working Group adopted the agenda (see annex I to the present report) and agreed on the organization of work as proposed by the Co-Chairs.

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[1] Angola, Argentina, Australia, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Barbados, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, China, Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, Cyprus, Ecuador, Fiji, France, Ghana, Greece, Honduras, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Italy, Iraq, Israel, Jamaica, Japan, Kuwait, Madagascar, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Myanmar, Namibia, Nauru, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Norway, Palau, Peru, Philippines, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Slovakia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago, United States of America, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) and Vanuatu.

[2] Holy See.

[3] The European Union, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the World Meteorological Organization, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the United Nations Environment Programme, the International Organization for Standardization, the South Asia Cooperative Environment Programme and the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat.

[4] Edmund Rice International.

7. Under agenda item 4, the Co-Chairs presented the report of the Bureau of the Working Group. A number of delegations made statements of a general nature under the agenda item and the Working Group took note of the report.

8. Under agenda item 5, the Working Group considered the lessons learned from the first cycle of the Regular Process and the way forward, including with regard to resource requirements. In this regard, delegations thanked the Co-Chairs and the members of the Bureau for their work during the intersessional period, including with regard to the two informal open meetings held at Headquarters on 6 May and 10 June 2016, to continue the consideration of lessons learned from the first cycle of the Regular Process pursuant to paragraph 282 of resolution 70/235.

9. A number of delegations made general statements regarding the successful completion of the first cycle of the Regular Process, the state of the oceans as reflected in the first global integrated marine assessment and its summary and developments at the national level.

10. Delegations took note of the abstract of views on lessons learned from the first cycle of the Regular Process, prepared by the secretariat of the Regular Process.

11. During its deliberations on agenda item 6, the Working Group considered the preliminary indicative programme of work for the period 2017-2020 for the second cycle of the Regular Process, presented by the Co-Chairs in consultation with the Bureau. Following the introduction by the secretariat of the information provided by the Secretary-General pursuant to paragraph 285 of resolution 70/235 on preliminary resource requirements for the period 2017-2020 for the second cycle of the Regular Process, the Working Group considered both documents in plenary and informal sessions. At the request of the Working Group, and by way of an invitation from the Co-Chairs, a representative of the Office of Programme Planning, Budget and Accounts provided a brief overview of the budgetary process of the Organization.

12. Under agenda item 6, the interim Joint Coordinator of the Group of Experts of the Regular Process for the second cycle of the Regular Process,[5] Alan Simcock, was invited to give a statement, in which he announced that the experts that were available to participate in the meeting of the Group of Experts had decided to appoint him and Renison Ruwa (Kenya) as interim Joint Coordinators.

13. Under agenda item 7, the Working Group considered, both in plenary and informal sessions, the draft recommendations prepared by the Bureau (see paras. 16 and 17).

14. Within the context of statements of a general nature, a delegation, noting its country's status as a non-party to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and the Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 relating to the

[5] As at 9 August 2016, the members of the Group of Experts were Enrique Marschoff (Argentina), David Smith (Australia), Juying Wang (China), Essam Yassin Mohammed (Eritrea), Anastasia Strati (Greece), Sanae Chiba (Japan), Renison Ruwa (Kenya), Ylénia Randrianarisoa (Madagascar), Hilconida P. Calumpong (Philippines), Mario Espino Sánchez (Peru), Tymon Przemyslaw Zielinski (Poland), Maria João Bebiano (Portugal), Chul Park (Republic of Korea), Osman Keh Kamara (Sierra Leone), Joshua Tuhumwire (Uganda), Alan Simcock (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland), Michelle McClure (United States of America) and Thanh Ca Vu (Viet Nam).

Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks, expressed the view that the norms contained in those treaties were not applicable to its country as customary international law, except for those that it recognized or would recognize in the future through their incorporation into national law. The delegation added that, in its view, the Convention was not the only legal framework that governed all activities in the oceans and seas and that other instruments also existed and formed, together with the Convention, the legal regime known as the law of the sea. While not wishing to obstruct the approval of the recommendations by consensus, the delegation expressed its reservations to the relevant sections by virtue of not being a party to the Convention.

15. Under agenda item 8, the Director of the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea reported on the status of the voluntary trust fund for the purpose of supporting the operations of the Regular Process, including for the provision of assistance to experts from developing countries, in particular least developed countries, small island developing States and landlocked developing States established by the General Assembly in its resolution 64/71 and extended for the duration of the Regular Process in resolution 68/70. Recent contributions included those by the Governments of New Zealand and the Republic of Korea and a pledge by the Netherlands. It was noted that, without additional funding, it would not be possible to provide the same level of financial assistance to experts to attend future meetings of the Regular Process. The Director informed the meeting that no contributions had been made to the special scholarship fund since its establishment pursuant to resolution 64/71.

II. Recommendations of the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole to the seventieth session of the General Assembly

16. On 9 August, the Working Group considered the draft recommendations together with the preliminary indicative programme of work for the period 2017-2020 for the second cycle of the Regular Process, which had been discussed in both the plenary and informal sessions.

17. The Working Group adopted by consensus its recommendations and the programme of work for consideration by the General Assembly.

18. The Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole recommends to the General Assembly that it:

(a) Reiterate the need to strengthen the regular scientific assessment of the state of the marine environment in order to enhance the scientific basis for policymaking;

(b) Reaffirm the principles guiding the Regular Process and its objective and scope as agreed upon at the first meeting of the Working Group in 2009;

(c) Recall that the Regular Process, as established under the United Nations, is accountable to the General Assembly and is an intergovernmental process guided by international law, including the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and other applicable international instruments, and takes into account relevant Assembly resolutions;

(d) Reaffirm the importance of the first global integrated marine assessment as the outcome of the first cycle of the Regular Process, which is available on the website of the secretariat and on the website of the United Nations World Ocean Assessment;

(e) Note with concern the findings of the first global integrated marine assessment that the world's oceans are facing major pressures simultaneously with such great impacts that the limits of their carrying capacity are being or, in some cases, have been reached and that delays in implementing solutions to the problems that have already been identified as threatening to degrade the world's oceans will lead, unnecessarily, to incurring greater environmental, social and economic costs;

(f) Recall the importance of making Governments, intergovernmental organizations, the scientific community and the general public aware of the first global integrated marine assessment and the Regular Process, and recognize with appreciation the activities undertaken by relevant intergovernmental organizations in this regard, in particular those of the secretariat of the Regular Process;

(g) Reiterate its encouragement to States and its invitation to relevant intergovernmental organizations to take the first global integrated marine assessment fully into account as part of various processes, such as the United Nations Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea;

(h) Recognize the supporting scientific value of the first global integrated marine assessment, among other things, for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, General Assembly resolution 69/292 on the development of an international legally binding instrument under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change process;

(i) Recall the importance of ensuring that assessments, such as those included in the Global Sustainable Development Report and those prepared under the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services and the Regular Process, support one another and avoid unnecessary duplication, and also recall the importance of taking into account assessments at the regional level;

(j) Recall that, in the first cycle, the scope of the Regular Process focused on establishing a baseline, and decide that the scope of the second cycle would extend to evaluating trends and identifying gaps;

(k) Recognize with appreciation those organizations that contributed to the first cycle of the Regular Process, including the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and the International Atomic Energy Agency, for their technical and scientific, logistical and financial support during the first cycle of the Regular Process;

(l) Recall its decision to launch the second cycle of the Regular Process and stress the importance of its successful implementation;

(m) Decide that the second cycle will cover five years, from 2016 to 2020;

(n) Welcome the holding of the seventh meeting of the Working Group, from 3 to 9 August 2016, in accordance with paragraph 283 of resolution 70/235;

(o) Take note with appreciation the work of the Bureau of the Working Group, in advance of the seventh meeting, pursuant to paragraph 282 of resolution 70/235, in circulating the submissions on views on lessons learned from the first cycle received from participants in the Working Group, and note the compilation of those views by the secretariat of the Regular Process;

(p) Also take note with appreciation of the inventory of available information on recent and ongoing assessments and other processes at the regional and global levels relevant to the Regular Process, prepared by the secretariat of the Regular Process pursuant to the request made in paragraph 286 of resolution 70/235, on the basis of the information provided by intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations (NGOs);

(q) Express appreciation to the Secretary-General for reviewing the resource requirements for the period 2017-2020 for the second cycle of the Regular Process pursuant to the request made in paragraph 285 of resolution 70/235;

(r) Recall that the Regular Process will be overseen and guided by the Working Group, and decide that the Working Group will facilitate the delivery of the outputs of the second cycle as outlined in the programme of work for the period 2017-2020 for the second cycle of the Regular Process;

(s) Recognize with appreciation the important role of the Co-Chairs and the Bureau in providing guidance during the intersessional periods, including in making the second cycle of the Regular Process operational;

(t) Request the Bureau to continue to put into practice the decisions and guidance of the Working Group during the intersessional period, including by providing oversight of the delivery of the programme of work for the period 2017-2020 for the second cycle of the Regular Process;

(u) Welcome the constitution of the Group of Experts of the Regular Process as an integral part of the second cycle of the Regular Process, request the members of the Group of Experts, who have been appointed by Member States pursuant to paragraph 287 of resolution 70/235, to serve on the Group of Experts for the duration of the second cycle in an independent and personal capacity, and urge regional groups that have not yet done so to appoint experts to the Group of Experts in accordance with paragraph 287 of resolution 70/235, taking into account the need to ensure geographical distribution and adequate expertise in socioeconomic disciplines;

(v) Invite the Group of Experts and other relevant partners to begin working on the programme of work for the period 2017-2020 for the second cycle of the Regular Process as soon as possible;

(w) Recall its invitation in paragraph 288 of resolution 70/235 to individuals who served in the Group of Experts during the first cycle of the Regular Process to provide advice, as required, to the Bureau and the Working Group until the Group of Experts for the second cycle has been appointed;

(x) Encourage the Group of Experts to extend an invitation to its members and to the members of the pool of experts of the first cycle of the Regular Process, as appropriate, to contribute to the drafting and review of the technical abstract(s);

(y) Request the Group of Experts to review, for their applicability to the second cycle of the Regular Process, the terms of reference and working methods of the Group of Experts of the first cycle of the Regular Process and the guidance for contributors, and to modify them, as appropriate, so as to ensure, among other things, continuous full membership and engagement by the members of the Group of Experts, and inform the Bureau for subsequent endorsement by the Ad Hoc Working Group;

(z) Request the Bureau to develop a mechanism to establish a pool of experts for the second cycle of the Regular Process, including by inviting individuals who served in the pool of experts during the first cycle to indicate to the secretariat of the Regular Process whether they would be interested in serving in the pool of experts for the second cycle;

(aa) Invite States to designate, by 31 May 2017, national focal points to facilitate the implementation of the programme of work for the period 2017-2020 for the second cycle of the Regular Process, in particular with respect to the nomination process for additional experts to the pool of experts; the swift communication among the scientific community, the Group of Experts, the pool of experts, the Bureau and the secretariat of the Regular Process; and awareness-raising;

(bb) Invite the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO, UNEP, IMO, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the World Meteorological Organization and relevant United Nations system organizations, bodies, funds and programmes, as appropriate, to assist in the implementation of the second cycle of the Regular Process with regard to the following activities: awareness-raising, the identification of experts for the pool of experts, technical and scientific support for the Bureau and the Group of Experts, hosting workshops and meetings of the writing teams, capacity-building and the scoping process for the assessment(s) of the second cycle;

(cc) Invite relevant intergovernmental organizations to contribute, as appropriate, to the activities of the second cycle;

(dd) Urge Member States, international financial institutions, donor agencies, intergovernmental organizations, NGOs and natural and juridical persons to make financial contributions to the voluntary trust fund and to make other contributions to the Regular Process;

(ee) Request the Secretary-General to secure the resources necessary, including the option of the regular budget of the Organization, for the programme of work for the period of 2017-2020 for the second cycle of the Regular Process, in accordance with established procedures and within the respective purview of relevant bodies;

(ff) Request the Secretary-General to convene, in 2017, two meetings of the Working Group for no more than five days each: one in the first half of 2017 to consider the technical abstracts in accordance with the programme of work for the period 2017-2020 for the second cycle of the Regular Process and another in the second half of 2017.

Programme of work for the period 2017-2020 for the second cycle of the Regular Process for Global Reporting and Assessment of the State of the Marine Environment, including Socioeconomic Aspects

A. Introduction

19. Following the completion of the first cycle of the Regular Process for Global Reporting and Assessment of the State of the Marine Environment, including Socioeconomic Aspects in 2015, the General Assembly, in its resolution 70/235 on oceans and the law of the sea, welcomed with appreciation the first global integrated marine assessment, approved its summary (A/70/112), recognized the importance of the assessment, including for the small island developing States, and decided to launch the second cycle of the Regular Process.

20. In its resolution 64/71, the General Assembly decided[6] that, in the first cycle, the scope of the Regular Process would focus on establishing a baseline. In subsequent cycles, the scope would extend to evaluating trends and identifying gaps.

21. The assessment(s) prepared during the second cycle will play a decisive supporting role for other United Nations processes. Overall, the outcome of the assessment(s) should support policy development and decision-making at the national, regional and global levels.

B. Outputs of the second cycle

22. The programme of work for the period 2017-2020 consists of two outputs and activities in support of making the second cycle operational, with the understanding that additional activities may be required in this regard.

Output I: second World Ocean Assessment(s)

23. Building on the baselines established by the first global integrated marine assessment, the Group of Experts will prepare assessment(s). The process will begin with a scoping exercise in January 2017. The assessment(s) would be finalized by late 2020. The scoping exercise and the preparation of the assessment(s) would be supported through regional workshops that will, among other things, help to identify regional priorities.

Output II: Regular Process support for other ocean-related intergovernmental processes

24. On the basis of the first global integrated marine assessment and future assessment(s), key activities will be identified so as to support and interact with ongoing ocean-related intergovernmental processes, as appropriate. Outputs will be specifically tailored to the requests and needs of the processes, including the following:

[6] In paragraph 177 of resolution 64/71, the General Assembly endorsed the recommendations adopted by the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole during its first meeting that, in the first cycle, the scope of the regular process would focus on establishing a baseline. In subsequent cycles, the scope of the process would extend to evaluating trends (A/64/347, para. 19).

(a) The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

(b) General Assembly resolution 69/292 on the development of an international legally binding instrument under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction;

(c) The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change;

(d) The United Nations Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea.

25. Relevant ocean-related intergovernmental processes will be consulted regarding the provision of possible inputs to the preparation of these outputs and other activities of the second cycle of the Regular Process.

C. Activities in support of making the second cycle operational

Activities relating to the achievement of output 1

26. The following priority activities will be undertaken in 2017:

(a) The establishment of working methods and the communications and collaborative document management systems necessary;

(b) The confirmation of the interest of individuals who served in the pool of experts of the first cycle and the identification and appointment of additional experts to the pool;

(c) The establishment of focal points;

(d) The enhancement of the process to appoint and constitute the pool of experts;

(e) The development of a database of members of the pool of experts;

(f) The development of a database of recent and ongoing global and regional assessments;

(g) The scoping and preparation of the draft outline(s);

(h) The holding of regional workshops, which will begin in the second half of 2017, to build capacity, support the development of assessment(s) and facilitate outreach and awareness-raising.

27. The following other activities will be undertaken for the period 2018-2020:

(a) The approval of the draft outline(s);

(b) The constitution of writing teams and development of guidelines;

(c) The holding of regional workshops (ongoing and to begin in the second half of 2017);

(d) The holding of in-person and web-based meetings of the writing teams;

(e) The holding of in-person and web-based meetings of the Group of Experts;

(f) Obtaining subscriptions to scientific publications and databases, as identified by the Group of Experts;

(g) The creation and maintenance of a library of links to keep a common electronic record of trends;

(h) The preparation of draft assessment(s), including an editing and review process, to, among other things, ensure the securing of copyright and conformity with United Nations standards, including determining the need for and/or responding to requests for disclaimers;

(i) A peer review of assessment(s), followed by a review by States;

(j) A review of comments received by the Group of Experts and a final review by States and their approval;

(k) The finalization of assessment(s) for digital and print publication, including the preparation of an index, a final edit, translation and the dissemination of the assessment(s).

Activities related to the achievement of output II

28. The following priority activities will be undertaken in 2017:

(a) The establishment of working methods and the communications and collaborative document management systems necessary;

(b) The preparation of the outline(s) of the technical abstract(s);

(c) The review and approval of the outline(s);

(d) The preparation of draft technical abstract(s), including an editing and review process, among other things, to ensure the securing of copyright and conformity with United Nations standards, including determining the need for and/or responding to requests for disclaimers;

(e) The consideration and finalization of the technical abstract(s);

(f) The translation, digital and print publication and dissemination of the technical abstract(s).

29. The following other activity will be undertaken for the period 2018-2020: the Regular Process will continue to support ongoing ocean-related intergovernmental processes and other activities to be developed, which may include outreach and awareness-raising activities.

Outreach and awareness-raising

30. Outreach and awareness-raising are critical to the successful implementation and impact of the Regular Process and will be pursued through a number of activities, including:

(a) The development and maintenance of a Regular Process web portal and online databases;

(b) The holding of briefings and side events, including for the launching of outputs;

(c) The development and distribution of promotional print and audiovisual material;

(d) Participation in intergovernmental meetings to promote the first global integrated marine assessment, the provision of updates on the second cycle and its products and the establishment of areas of cooperation in the development and implementation of the second cycle.

Activities relating to the achievement of capacity-building

31. Capacity-building is one of the core objectives of the Regular Process and will be pursued through a number of activities to facilitate needs-based capacity-building initiatives, including:

(a) The compilation and maintenance of a capacity-building inventory;

(b) The holding of workshops and their follow-up, which will play a central role in raising the awareness of stakeholders to the Regular Process, the identification and collection of data, the identification/scoping of regional priorities and the wider dissemination of the assessment. They will also foster a wider geographical representation in the appointment of experts to the pool of experts;

(c) The holding of a multi-stakeholder dialogue (case studies of good practices) and a capacity-building partnership event;

(d) Fundraising for the Regular Process special scholarship trust fund and the implementation of the special scholarship.

Secretariat activities relating to the Regular Process

32. As the secretariat of the Regular Process, the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea, of the Office of Legal Affairs, supports the activities undertaken within the Regular Process and the implementation of its outputs. During the second cycle, the secretariat will be required to perform, among other things, the following functions:

(a) The discharge of the secretariat functions for the Regular Process, including administrative services;

(b) The provision of assistance to delegations, Bureau members, the Co-Chairs, the Group of Experts and the pool of experts;

(c) The servicing of meetings of the relevant institutions that support the Regular Process:

(i) The Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole, which will hold one meeting annually, with flexibility to hold additional meetings, including open informal meetings as necessary. The joint coordinators of the Group of Experts would attend the meetings of the Working Group;

(ii) The Bureau of the Working Group, which will meet throughout the second cycle and, on average, once a month;

(iii) The Group of Experts, which will hold periodic in-person meetings (tentatively one in 2017, two each in 2018 and 2019 and one in 2020) and regular web-based meetings;

(d) Hold inter-agency cooperation and coordination meetings, either in-person or web-based, to facilitate such cooperation and coordination, secure firm commitments and inputs, raise awareness of the Regular Process and its outputs and facilitate capacity-building, data collection and nominations for the pool of experts;

(e) The preparation of documents, including background materials, summaries of issues and views of delegations and meeting reports, and note-taking;

(f) The substantive review of the technical abstract(s), formatting, typesetting and copy-editing and the provision of other support to finalizing the abstracts(s);

(g) Support for a scoping exercise for output I assessment(s);

(h) Support for the establishment of, and liaison with, focal points;

(i) The appointment and constitution of the pool of experts, including a review of the process;

(j) The organization and substantive servicing of and follow-up to regional workshops;

(k) Support for the drafting of the assessment(s) through:

(i) The compilation of recent and ongoing assessments;

(ii) Facilitating communications, including through the establishment of communications and collaborative document management systems;

(iii) A substantive review;

(iv) The preparation of an index.

(l) Editing, formatting and publication of the assessment(s);

(m) The development of a communications strategy;

(n) The establishment of partnerships with relevant stakeholders;

(o) Conducting awareness-raising campaigns and outreach activities, including within intergovernmental meetings;

(p) The compilation and maintenance of a capacity-building inventory of needs and opportunities;

(q) The development and maintenance of a Regular Process web portal and databases on available assessments and capacity-building inventory;

(r) The provision of briefings, the organization of side events and the development of promotional materials;

(s) The preparation of summaries of views of meeting participants for the Working Group, its Bureau and Co-Chairs, the Group of Experts and the pool of experts;

(t) Raising awareness of and technical support for the Regular Process;

(u) The administration of the Regular Process trust fund, including fundraising, donor engagement, the management of contributions, reporting, the disbursement of funds and travel management.

Annex

Agenda of the seventh meeting of the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole on the Regular Process for Global Reporting and Assessment of the State of the Marine Environment, including Socioeconomic Aspects

1. Opening of the meeting.
2. Adoption of the agenda.
3. Organization of work.
4. Report of the Bureau of the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole.
5. Consideration of lessons learned from the first cycle of the Regular Process and the way forward, including with regard to resource requirements.
6. Implementation of the second cycle of the Regular Process, including its budget and duration.
7. Adoption of recommendations to the seventieth session of the General Assembly.
8. Other matters.
9. Closure of the meeting.